

Drawn by **DAVE GIBBONS**

THE OLD MAN WAS TRYING TO TELL THE FUTURE, LOOKING FOR PICTURES IN THE CAMPFIRE...

EVIL... OHHH, I SEE EVIL...

EVIL, BORN DEEP BENEATH THE CITY... FAR FROM THE LIGHT OF DAY...

I SEE IT GROWING, SAFE BELOW A SKY OF STEEL... SCHEMING IN THE DARK... GATHERING STRENGTH...

AND NOW... OHH... NOW THE EVIL SPREADS!

IT SENDS DEADLY FEELERS OVER THE LAND ABOVE...

ACROSS THE GAP... REACHING TOWARDS THIS VERY PLACE!

I'D SEEN HIM DO THIS A HUNDRED TIMES, BUT I HUMOURED HIM.

AFTER ALL, HE'D BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO ME.

AND WHAT DOES THIS EVIL WANT HERE?

OH,  
MY SON,  
I FEAR...

I  
FEAR THE  
EVIL WANTS  
YOU!

THAT WAS  
WHEN JOEY  
PIPED UP--

FOSTER!  
SENSORS  
DETECT  
INCOMING  
AUDIO  
SOURCE!



THEN THE REST OF US HEARD IT, TOO.

THE EVIL! THE EVIL IS NEARLY HERE--

WHUP WHUP WHUP

IT SOUNDED MORE LIKE A 'COPTER THAN A DEMON.



BUT, NEXT THING, ALL HELL LET LOOSE ANYWAY--

RUN, FOSTER! RUN! HIDE FROM THE EVIL!

AIEEE!

BUDDA BUDDA



FOSTER! >KZZT< H-HELP!

KCHANG

BUDDA BUDDA



BETTER >BZZT< MAKE MY >TZZKT< NEXT BODY MOVE >KTZ< FASTER, FOSTER...

HE WAS ONLY A ROBOT, BUT, WELL, I LOVED THE LITTLE GUY.



THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT STARTED, THE SHOOTING STOPPED.

WHUP WHUP

>TZZTZ<



THERE WAS A MOMENT'S SILENCE AS THE 'COPTER CUT ITS ROTORS, THEN --



WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE HERE, COME FORWARD--

NOW!

ONLY A FOOL WOULD'VE ARGUED WITH THAT FIREPOWER.



I -- I AM THE LEADER OF THESE PEOPLE... WE ARE PEACEFUL--

BRING HIM HERE.

AT ONCE, COMMANDER REICH.



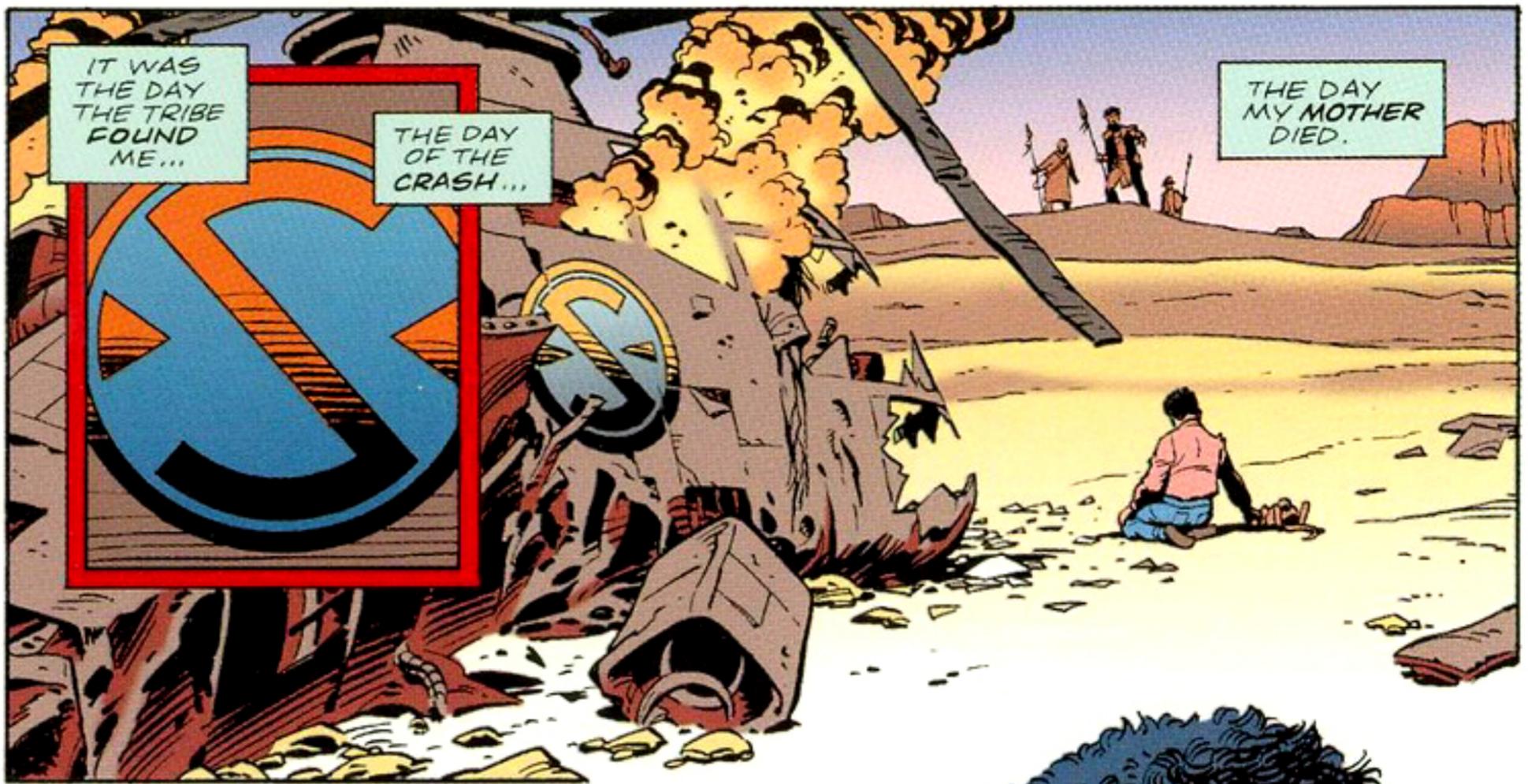
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T BELONG HERE... WHO WASN'T BORN IN THIS GARBAGE DUMP... WHO CAME FROM THE CITY AS A CHILD...



WE WANT TO TAKE HIM HOME AGAIN.

MY MIND RACING, I REMEMBERED WHERE I'D SEEN THAT SYMBOL BEFORE...



IT WAS  
THE DAY  
THE TRIBE  
FOUND  
ME...

THE DAY  
OF THE  
CRASH...

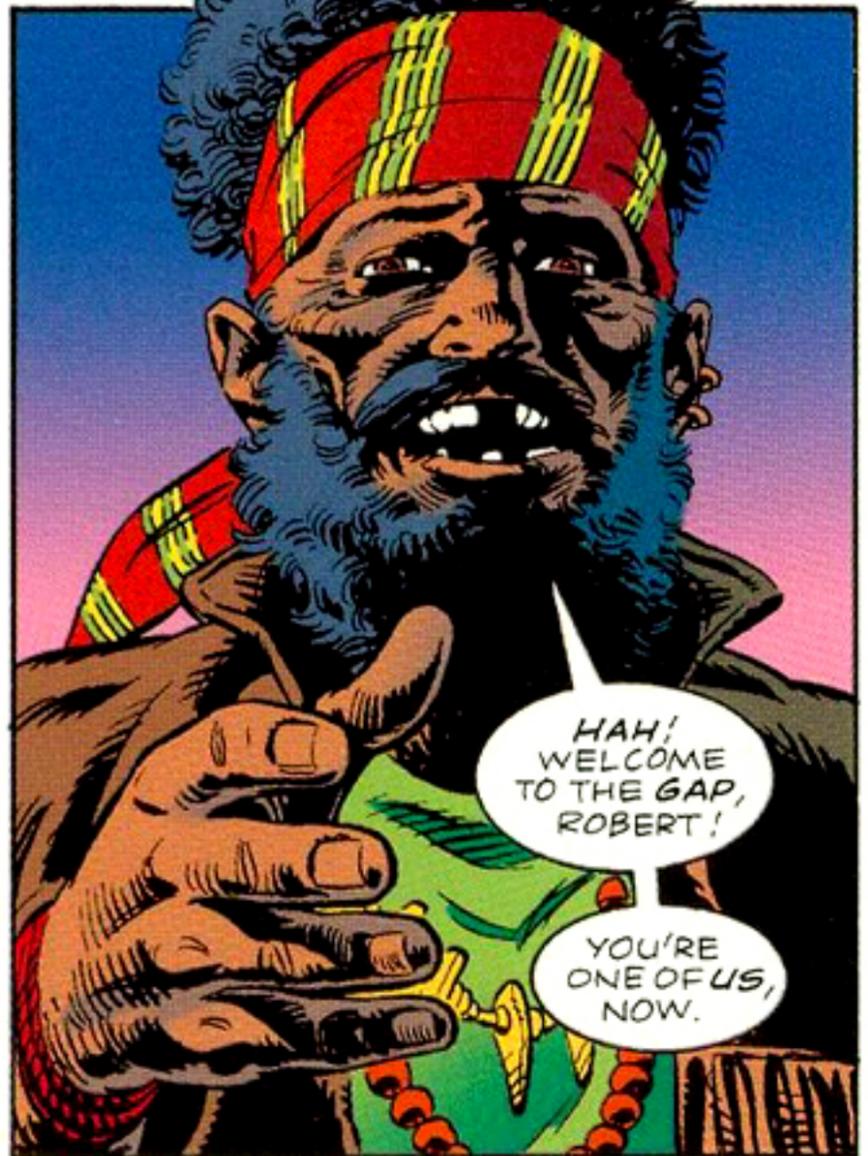
THE DAY  
MY MOTHER  
DIED.



YOU  
ALRIGHT,  
CITY  
BOY?

GOT A  
NAME,  
SON?

R-ROBERT.



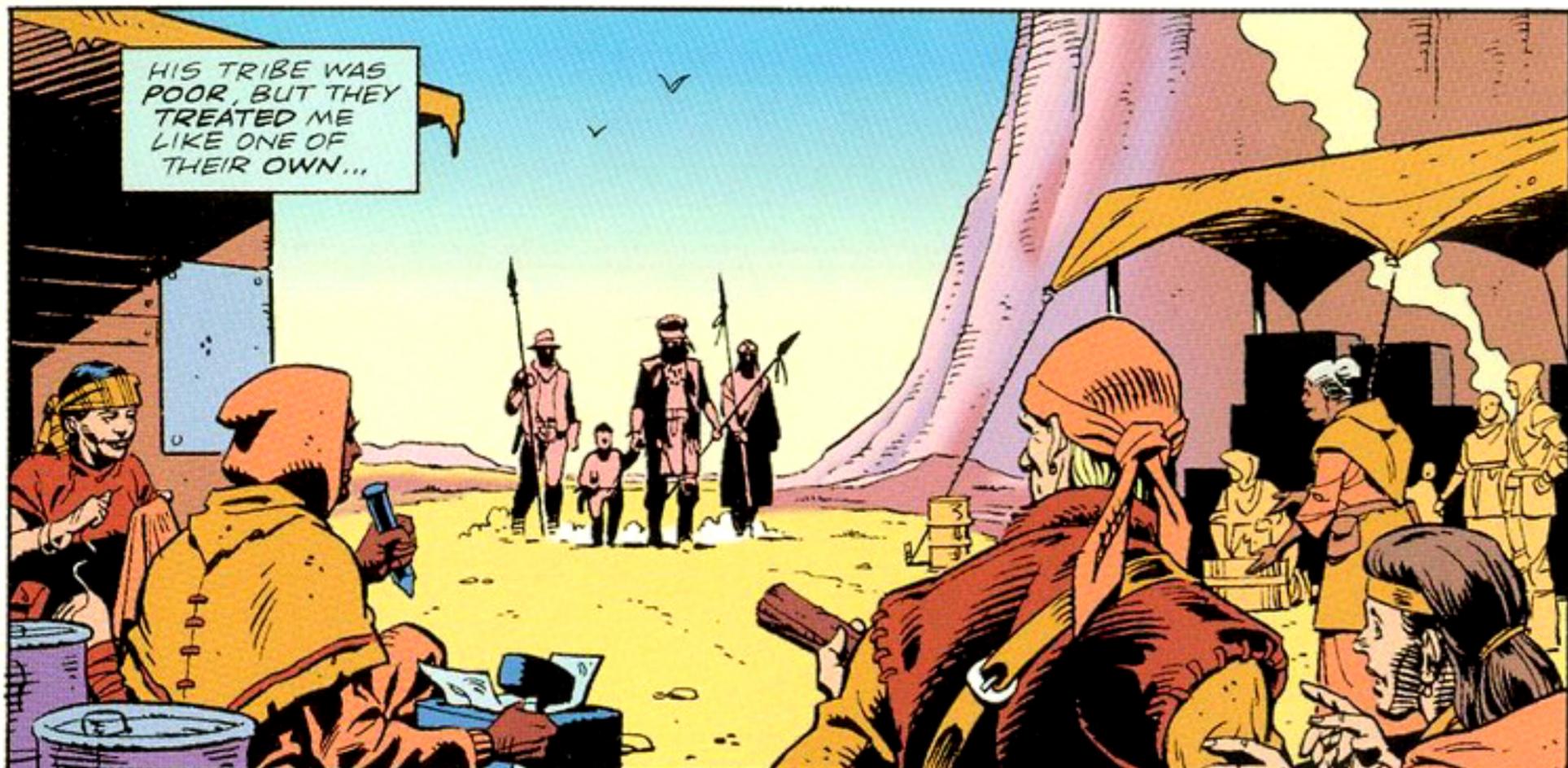
HAH!  
WELCOME  
TO THE GAP,  
ROBERT!

YOU'RE  
ONE OF US,  
NOW.

AS HE PATCHED  
ME UP, THE OLD  
MAN HAD GENTLY  
EXPLAINED THAT  
THERE WAS NO  
WAY BACK INTO  
THE CITY...

AND I ALREADY  
KNEW THERE WAS  
NOTHING HE COULD  
DO FOR MOTHER.





HIS TRIBE WAS POOR, BUT THEY TREATED ME LIKE ONE OF THEIR OWN...



I LEARNED HOW TO SURVIVE, HUNTING IN THE WASTELAND THEY CALLED THE GAP...



AND SCAVENGING FROM THE CITY DUMPS.

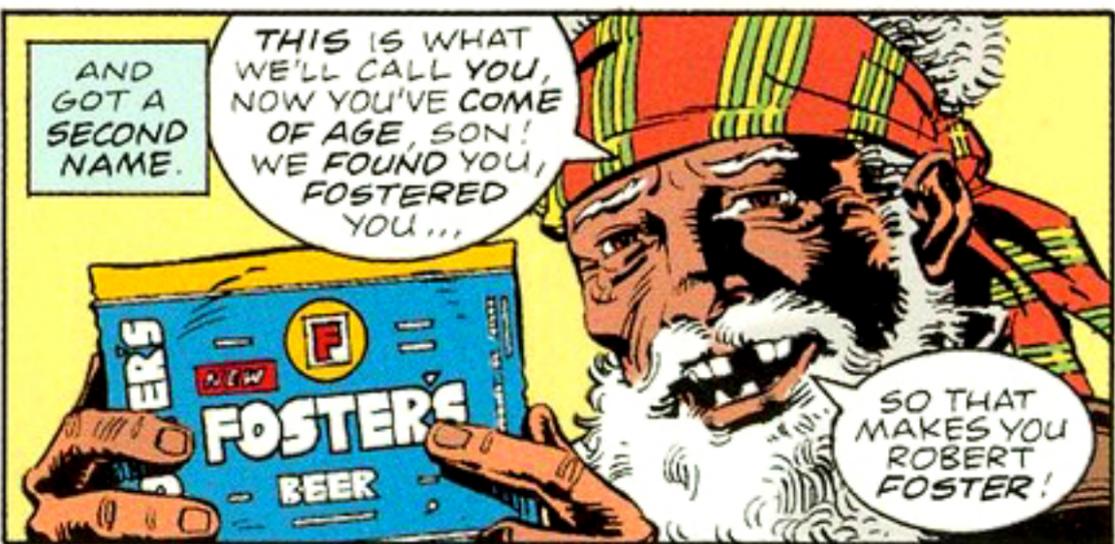


AS THE YEARS PASSED, I FORGOT MY LIFE IN THE CITY

DISCOVERED NEW TALENTS...

I'M YOUR >KZZT< FRIEND ... CALL ME >TZZT< JOEY.

HAH!



AND GOT A SECOND NAME.

THIS IS WHAT WE'LL CALL YOU, NOW YOU'VE COME OF AGE, SON! WE FOUND YOU, FOSTERED YOU...

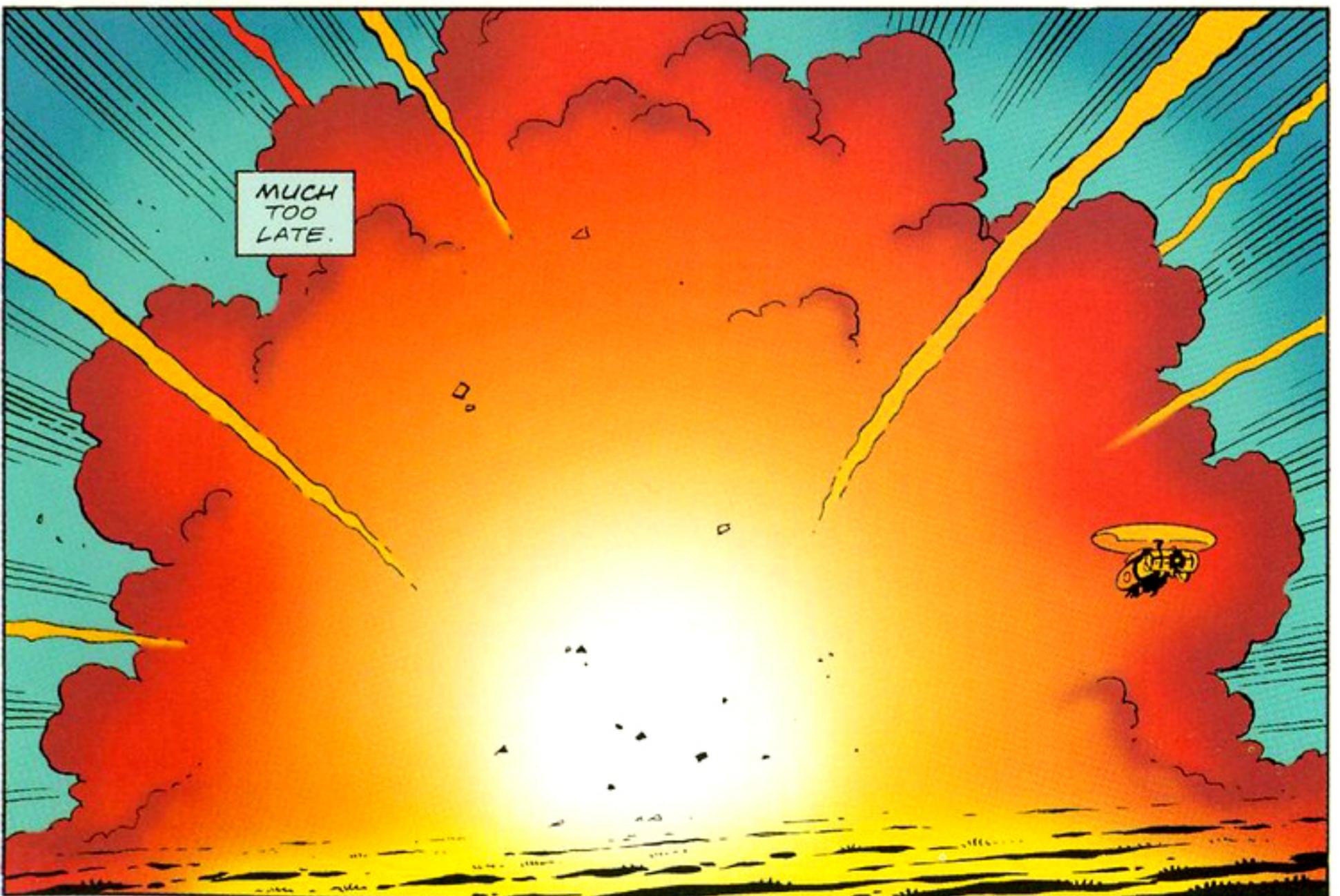
SO THAT MAKES YOU ROBERT FOSTER!



...WASTED ENOUGH TIME!

GIVE US THE RUNAWAY OR WE'LL SHOOT EVERYONE... STARTING WITH YOU, GRANDAD!

THE OLD MAN HAD BEEN RIGHT, FOR ONCE...





WHY, YOU MURDERING--

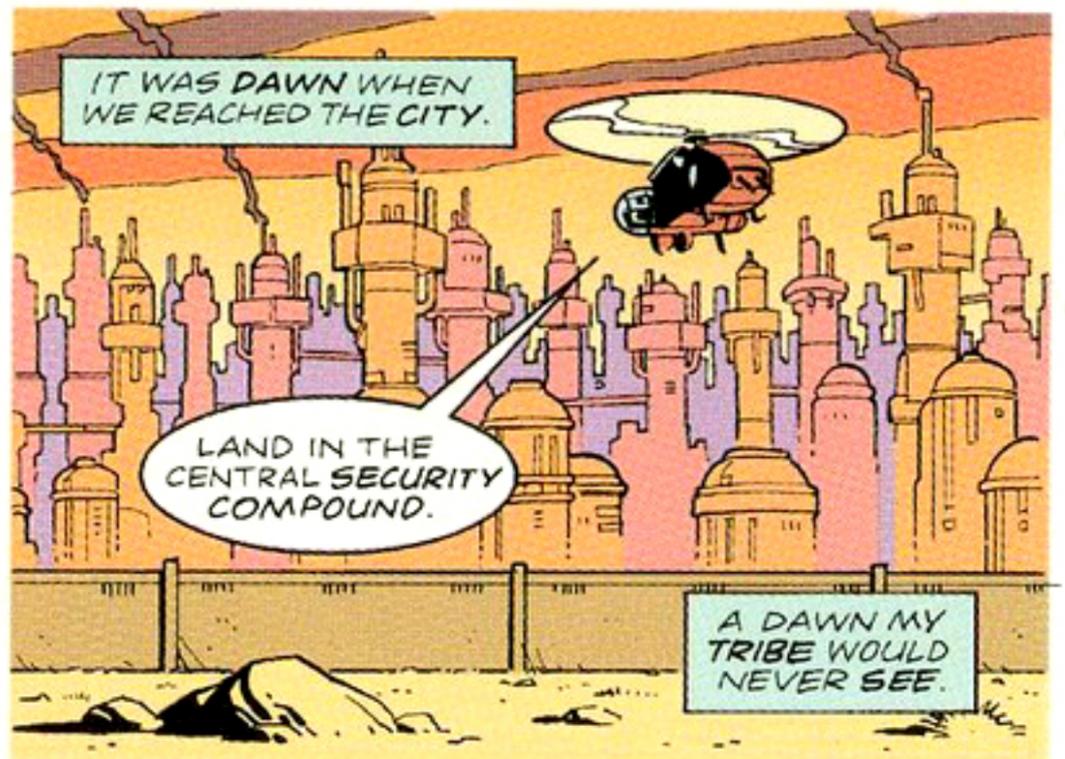
KEEP HIM QUIET.



ALL I COULD DO WAS WAIT.

JUST LIKE ON A HUNT. JUST LIKE THE OLD MAN TAUGHT ME.

WAIT... AND BE READY.



IT WAS DAWN WHEN WE REACHED THE CITY.

LAND IN THE CENTRAL SECURITY COMPOUND.

A DAWN MY TRIBE WOULD NEVER SEE.



THEY WERE NO MORE THAN A NOTE IN REICH'S BOOK NOW.

YES, SIR. LOCKING ON AUTOMATIC LANDING BEACON.

BUT WHAT WAS I? WHY DID--

SIR! THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM! IT'S GONE CRAZY!

WE'RE GOING TO HIT!

MAYBE I'D GET SOME ANSWERS NOW.

IF I SURVIVED ANOTHER 'COPTER CRASH...

